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Did CIA Seek to Change Quotes of Folk Singer?

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TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese television producer said today he was asked by an American to make false translations of political remarks made by American folk singer Joan Baez during her recent visit to Japan. Japanese newspapers reported that Ichiro Takasaki told them he was "pressured" by an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency named Harold Cooper, but after this was published Takasaki said:

"I don't know exactly whether he was in the CIA, CIE or something. I'm a musician."

The U.S. Embassy denied that any employee of the U.S. government had attempted to interfere with the singer during her tour of Japan last month. A spokesman said it had no employee named Harold Cooper.

Takasaki was Miss Baez's interpreter during a tour which took her from Tokyo to Hiroshima, Nagoya and Osaka. She left for Honolulu Feb. 2.

Cooper said, "If Joan Baez says something political, don't translate it correctly, but say something else," Takasaki reported.

The mistranslations, which

attracted attention when one of Miss Baez's concerts was shown on television, included:

Miss Baez referred to Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan's two atom-bombed cities, but Takasaki said: "The show would be televised."

Miss Baez referred to the atomic bomb and the song "What Have They Done to the Rain?" and Takasaki repeated: "The show would be televised."

Miss Baez said she refused to pay taxes because she did not want her money to help finance the Vietnam conflict. Takasaki said: "Taxes are high in the United States."